

The Dunbar Report

Host: Tad Dunbar

3rd Quarter 2008

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TITLE: NEW 4 AT 6:30PM 30:00

TYPE: THE DUNBAR REPORT

DATE OF BROADCAST: AUG 4, 2008

DESCRIPTION: **Gibbons: "Healthy numbers" determine another special session**

Governor Gibbons says we may have another special session if "the numbers don't prove to be healthy" between now and January. In an interview with News 4's Tad Dunbar, Gibbons says that the problem he had with the end of the special session is the lack of "concrete assurance" with revenue projections. Gibbons says they thought it was going to be \$285 million but by the end of 2007 they saw themselves with about \$560 million short in funds. "By April, we were at \$913 million, at the end of June we were another, well, we were at a total of \$1.2 billion short," Gibbons said. According to Gibbons, the problem is not the legislature meeting once every two years, forecasting revenue two years away. He says the problem lies with spending. "We increased spending in the last legislative session about 14 percent," Gibbons says. "We say that more money is going to address the problem. I say that what we look at is how we are going to spend that money." With all the controversy surrounding Gibbons over the past year, Gibbons says he does not believe someone is out to get him. Instead, he says he wishes he had a "crystal ball" so he could have looked ahead and made better choices. "We all make decisions," Gibbons says. "Every one of us makes decisions and the consequences of some of those decisions might change the way we would have made that decision, had we known what the consequences, better defined, would have been." To see more of Gibbons' interview with Tad Dunbar tune in to watch The Tad Dunbar Report on News 4 at 6:30p.m. or catch highlights of the show on www.krnv.com.

TITLE: NEW 4 AT 6:30PM 30:00

TYPE: THE DUNBAR REPORT

DATE OF BROADCAST: AUG 5, 2008

DESCRIPTION: **BLM has a decision to make Sept. regarding wild horse population**

The Bureau of Land Management says it has some tough decisions to make in September regarding increases in wild horse population and the rising cost of maintaining the "symbol" of Nevada. The BLM says Nevada's wild horse population is at a turning point. They are caught between dwindling food supplies and a government agency facing an economic squeeze. There is a national

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advisory board meeting scheduled for September where one way or another a decision will be made on what to do with 30,000 wild horses in Nevada. The BLM says the best solution would be to find people to adopt the horses and provide for them but there are more than 1,100 horses at the Palomino Valley BLM facility. Scott Kandel, a horse trainer with a former wild horse of his own, says adoptions are down dramatically because of the price of hay, fuel and the economy. According to the BLM, it cost them \$37 million to care for the horses, an estimated cost of \$58 million is expected in 2009 and an incredible \$72 million estimated for 2012. Another option that has sent wild horse advocates and been a public relations nightmare for the BLM is the possible use of euthanizing to control the population. Northern Nevada cattleman, Ed Depaoli, says there is room for a certain number of horses but in some places they have outstripped the habitat. "They've cost me a lot of time and consternation but when you see where they live and how they live, you gotta have respect for them," Depaoli said. The BLM has a meeting scheduled in September.

TITLE: NEW 4 AT 6:30PM 30:00

TYPE: THE DUNBAR REPORT

DATE OF BROADCAST: AUG 6, 2008

DESCRIPTION: **Gibbons answers hard questions about rumors and alleged scandals**

Governor Gibbons denies any wrongdoing in regards to a tax cut on his property in Elko, will never turn his back on his friends and despite the "rumor" of the Republican Party no longer backing him for re-election, still plans on running for another term. In an interview with News 4's Tad Dunbar, Gibbons says he received the tax cut on his property in Elko County, saving him several thousands of dollars in taxes, because it is currently being used for "agricultural purposes" as it was before he bought the property. "I use the land the same way it was used for the preceding decades," Gibbons said. "Nothing has changed. If it was good enough before I bought it to be under an agricultural exemption, under the same uses, the same conditions, why is it not good enough to be under an agricultural exemption under the same usage and the same conditions but only because I bought it?" When asked about the controversies surrounding his "love life" Gibbons says he will never turn his back on a friend no matter what is going on in his life, in or out of the public eye. "I understand that I'm governor 7 days a week, 24 hours a day and, you know, I try to be very cautious about what happens, where the prospect of being governor leads," Gibbons said. "But I will never back away from helping a friend." As for the rumor of the Republican Party contacting Gibbons to inform him that they will not support him running for another term, Gibbons emphatically denies that claim. "The Republican Party has

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never, ever contacted me," Gibbons said. "They've never talked to me. They've never written me. I intend to run. I intend to be the governor for the next 2 1/2 years and I intend to run for re-election."

TITLE: NEW 4 AT 6:30PM 30:00

TYPE: THE DUNBAR REPORT

DATE OF BROADCAST: AUG 7, 2008

DESCRIPTION: **The Sage commission to weed out the
"redundant" agencies**

The Sage Commission says it needs to go through the 170 operating agencies and find ones that are "redundant" and "obsolete" in order to streamline the government to save money. Created by Governor Gibbons, the commission comprising of seven Democrats and seven Republicans, is in charge of finding the best way to streamline the roughly 170 governmental agencies in Nevada in order to save money. The commission says that one of the best ways to look into areas of spending is to look at what all agencies have in common, energy, travel and technology. "What we are looking for in each of these areas is which of our agencies is doing the best job," Bruce James said, commission chairman. "The agencies are run almost as independent fiefdoms and there isn't much coordination from one agency to the next in a lot of these areas." James says the current crisis-driven funding cuts for individual agencies are not a long term solution. He says the answer is to look at the agencies themselves and see how they can be changed or restructured. "Those 170 entities were never thought through," James said. "I mean nobody ever thought through and said we need 170 entities to accomplish this." However, getting rid of an agency means firing some of the state's more than 17,000 employees. The commission is relying on the amount of state employees eligible for retirement to offset the possible high numbers of those jobs threatened. "Clearly if we're going to reduce the cost of government, it's going to have an impact on the employees of government, and what, we don't know yet" James said. James says that it is important to protect the dignity of all state employees and that the commission doesn't "force" anyone to leave the government that would like to continue the work. He says there is plenty of room to work on reshaping, making more efficient agencies for the future.

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TITLE: NEW 4 AT 6:30PM 30:00

TYPE: THE DUNBAR REPORT

DATE OF BROADCAST: AUG 8, 2008

DESCRIPTION: **Battle heats up between Raggio and Angle ahead of primary**

The GOP primary is Tuesday and the two candidates running for State Senate District three could not be more different, especially when it comes to the topic of taxes. In Friday's in-depth Dunbar Report News 4 spoke with both candidates for the State Senate, Republican Senator, Bill Raggio, his party's majority leader and former Assemblywoman, Sharron Angle. Raggio has been in the Nevada State Senate for more than 35 years and has in the past approved the raising of taxes to offset budget deficits. Raggios says in the past he has approved of raising taxes at times when revenue was "flat" and taxes needed to be raised just to meet "essential services." However, he says that stance has changed in light of tough economic times. "Businesses are hurting," Raggio said. "So I can tell you there will be no tax increases in the next session of the legislature or for the foreseeable future." Angle says she does not buy Raggio's new stance on not raising taxes because he has said so before. "He has said no to new taxes before," Angle said. "I am cynical enough to say that I don't trust that." Angle says there is a spending cap on the books that limits the governor's ability to present a budget that goes over population plus inflation but has no restriction on the legislator. Raggio's response to Angle, "She's delirious."

TITLE: NEW 4 AT 6:30PM 30:00

TYPE: THE DUNBAR REPORT

DATE OF BROADCAST: AUG 11, 2008

DESCRIPTION: **Is the Washoe County voting process reliable?**

The Democratic and Republican Primary elections will begin the biennial process of choosing Nevada's government leadership and it's a process that's often contentious, controversial and if it doesn't work smoothly, somebody's likely to get sued.

The man responsible for seeing that things go smoothly in Washoe County is voter registrar, Dan Burke. Burk says about 12,000 ballots were cast during the

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primary election's early voting period from July 26 through August 8, with about 6,000 absentee ballots received so far. He says he expects about 20,000 more voters to turn out tomorrow at the polls, resulting in a voter turnout of about 18-20 percent for the primary election. Burke says his office has been putting in long hours trying to anticipate problems in Tuesday's Primary, which may not be a bad idea. There have been problems in recent elections as in the Primary in 2006, when many precinct officials simply didn't show up by the time the polls opened and the voters began arriving.

Another is the presidential election of 2000. Nobody has been really sure whether they can trust the machines on which we cast our votes. In the Dunbar Report, Tad asks whether all this technology is reliable enough to make the final count of the primary and is it really 'hacker proof.' Burke says absolutely. He says they are the kind of people that want to make sure everything is "lock and loaded" whether at the County Registrar office or polling places.

TITLE: NEW 4 AT 6:30PM 30:00

TYPE: THE DUNBAR REPORT

DATE OF BROADCAST: AUG 12, 2008

DESCRIPTION: **A serious effort is underway to bring Olympics back to our area**

Tuesday's Dunbar Report looks into whether or not the biggest little city can accommodate the Olympics, how we can afford it and what changes it would mean for the area. There is a serious effort underway headed by Lt. Governor Brian Krolicki to snag the Winter Games for the Reno/Tahoe area. It wouldn't be the first time Reno/Tahoe attracted the mega-event. Nearby Squaw Valley hosted the Winter Games in 1960. The CEO of the Reno Tahoe Olympic coalition, John Killoran, who's on his way to Beijing this week, says it is about building and nurturing the relationships we already have and fostering new ones. "The Olympic movement is a family that, as we're learning, is quite vast and large and it's worldwide," Killoran said. Reno Tahoe area has a lot more going on since 1960 Squaw Valley. We have developed one of the largest most concentrated collections of ski resorts in the world. Reno on the other hand will have to do some serious building. "Down here we have to work diligently on ice," Killoran said. "You know, permanent ice rinks have been a problem here." All hope is not lost though. Killoran says there is time to make some changes since the earliest time is 10 years from now. The cost will be substantial though. "If we project out what we've been looking at," Killoran said. "It will be over a billion dollars when all is said and done." Nevadans may be wondering with a billion dollar price tag in order to accommodate the Winter Games, what it means to taxpayers. Killoran

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says he and Krolicki will never put a bid forward that is not "economically sound." For information regarding the Olympics in Lake Tahoe visit <http://www.nbcolympics.com/krnv/news/newsid=120167.html#committee+confident+olympic>

TITLE: NEW 4 AT 6:30PM 30:00

TYPE: THE DUNBAR REPORT

DATE OF BROADCAST: AUG 13, 2008

DESCRIPTION: **County and neighbors attempt to force a clean up in Sun Valley**

The community of Sun Valley has attempted to clean up its image; however there are those that still refuse to clean up their act. Sun Valley has a history of poverty-stricken side streets and a crime-ridden collection of rundown trailers. But take a drive around these says and you will see a lot of community pride at work. Nowadays people are taking better care of their property and the place is looking up. One of the residents, Pat Lancaster, may be the valley's most energetic community spirit. She is on several boards, including the Sun Valley General Improvement District. "We do some of the car tow-a ways with garbage funds," Lancaster said. "We have a franchise fee that we get and it's for beautification, education." Those old cars Lancaster mentioned are the valley's worst problem and a particular property on Carol Drive is the worst of the worst. The owner of the property, John Mouchou, has refused to clean up his property even after the County Community Development Agency has been trying for more than two years to force the guy into submission. A deal in court forced Mouchou to erect a fence around his property but it does little to hide the mess of strewn broken-down cars inside. A neighbor of Mouchou's, Tom Noblett, blames the courts for the failure to force a clean-up. He and other irate neighbors have attended several hearings. "They had a court trial last month and I never heard so much innuendo that didn't mean anything," Noblett said. "You're just sitting there wondering what the hell's going on. This guy's debating that he wasn't even summoned and it was sent to the wrong address." News 4 has been unable to contact Mouchou regarding this story but we do know his next day in court is Sept. 2 as the county continues its efforts to force a clean-up.

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TYPE: THE DUNBAR REPORT

DATE OF BROADCAST: AUG 14, 2008

DESCRIPTION: **Condo residents fighting homeowners association over \$27,500 a piece bill**

Residents of a Reno housing complex are upset over being hit with \$27,500 assessment bills from their Home Owner's Association with little help from the courts. The Housing Association hit 32 property owners at the Riverside Terrace condominiums with a \$27,500 *a piece* assessment bill even though records show a majority of the home owners voted against the assessment. "The lady next door, she's single," Elmer Morgan said, Riverside Terrace resident. He says it's a hardship on everyone he has spoken to in the community. Morgan says the association has refused to do basic preventative maintenance, such as roof repair, for years and that's why he says the complex is in its current bad shape. The property assessment reports that "maintenance has either been inadequate, deferred or both." After years of seeming neglect, now the association wants to perform a million dollar upgrade at the residents' expense. The association board's Vice President, David Zawacki, off camera, referred to the residents that are fighting the assessment as "whiners-a few disgruntled homeowners who can't manage their money." Zawacki says that some of the money obtained from the assessment will be used to repair the roofs on the unit. However, according to a receipt News 4 received, the board paid \$13,000 to have the roofs repaired just two years ago. It was work that wasn't even guaranteed by the contractor, Falcon Roofing. All of this makes some of the homeowners at Riverside Terrace question how well the board is managing its money and its affairs. The issue has caught the attention of state assemblywoman Sheila Leslie whose district includes the riverside terrace complex. "I think it's a heartbreaking situation for any homeowner to be told they have to come up with that kind of money," Leslie said. "To drop an assessment of that size doesn't seem fair." Leslie says she plans to take a close look at the law which right now only requires assessments to be "reasonable." But after trying unsuccessfully to fight the issue in court, residents are running out of time. Those assessments, reasonable or not, are due next month.

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TYPE: THE DUNBAR REPORT

DATE OF BROADCAST: AUG 15, 2008

DESCRIPTION: **Does better education in a state mean better economic growth?**

Economists say there is a direct link to the economic development of a state and its available higher education system to its residents. Friday's in depth Dunbar Report focuses on the importance of higher education for economic development and what needs to be done to save Nevada's economy. The contribution of gaming tax to our state revenue is at an all time low. The gaming control board reports local casinos took in almost 7 percent less than they did a year ago and that translates into lower gaming taxes. Economists say in order to restore the gaming loss we have to diversify our economy. It helps to have more success companies in the Reno area in which to diversify. Gail Conkey, director of marketing at the Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada (EDAWN) says companies will not relocate to Reno if we cannot fulfill workforce needs. She says a workforce not only defines the productivity of a company but the development of the economy. An example of a successful company relocation that led to the betterment of Reno's economy specifically is computer giant Microsoft. Microsoft licensing opened its doors in Reno 11 years ago. It currently employs 500 locals, several University of Nevada alumni. Microsoft General Manager, Mary Ellen Smith says there is much opportunity to bring higher paying jobs to the area that is only available by the level of importance given to higher education. "There's a lot of opportunity to grow people more in the area and retain talent as we get here locally by being able to ensure we're supporting the system," Smith said. Conkey says in order to elicit companies to relocate to Reno you first have to look at the economic development model: Step one, recruit the company, step two, retain the company and step three, expand the company, connect it with local talent. "You can't do any of those three economic development activities unless you have a sustained high level of workforce which directly relates back to our higher education," Conke

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TITLE: NEW 4 AT 6:30PM 30:00

TYPE: THE DUNBAR REPORT

DATE OF BROADCAST: AUG 18, 2008

DESCRIPTION: **Does better education in a state mean better economic growth?**

The head of the Service Employees International Union says a change in public employees' benefits policy will cause local governments to suffer a serious "brain drain." Douglas County Grand Jury issued a report showing that due to a change in public employee benefits policy, many public employees covered by the public employee retirement system will lose their retirement health coverage by the end of 2008. Although public employees still have the option of paying into a private fund, a large number of public workers in local governments and school districts have chosen early retirement. Among them is: 29 Sparks municipal employees including the police chief, almost 70 Douglas County school teachers and dozens of Reno Tahoe airport workers. "I'm losing over 500 years of experience, 24 employees including my CFO and her right hand in the finance department who together have almost 60 years of experience," Krys Bart said, Reno Tahoe Airport manager. "The problem is Nevada is seen a place that doesn't have quality employees and we've taken our best, our brightest with longevity and experience and we've forced them out of system." The private sector has been slashing benefits for retirees for two decades now. Right now only one in three big companies provides retiree health benefits. Four years ago, the state spent \$14 million to subsidize retiree benefit. By next year it will jump to \$40 million. With a budget squeeze across all government agencies, the issue of public retiree benefits is certain to be a top priority in the 2009 legislative session. "It was such a shortsighted maneuver without consulting all of the agencies within the public employment retirement system," Bart said. "I understand why the state had to do it, but at the same time the state should have said what can we do to make it work."

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TITLE: NEW 4 AT 6:30PM 30:00

TYPE: THE DUNBAR REPORT

DATE OF BROADCAST: AUG 19, 2008

DESCRIPTION: **All the changes to the Nevada Wildlife Commission has critics worrying**

Governor Gibbons appointed three new board members to the Nevada Wildlife Commission along with the commission electing a new chairman has caused some critics of the new board to worry about a possible dramatic change in wildlife management policy. "These county advisory boards usually give their recommendations to the governor as to who should sit on the wildlife commission," Jim Nelson said, vice president, Nevada Bighorns Unlimited. "In this case not only did the governor not select those but he never even listened to the county advisory board, he never returned phone calls he would not have anything to do with this particular issue. He made up his mind that he was going to repay past friendships or whatever and appoint his friends." The basic split is that former members of the board who were not reappointed want to preserve Nevada's game species through habitat management whereas the new majority on the board is said to favor "predator control" as a way of increasing game population. News 4 spoke with the newly-elected commission Chairman, Gerry Lent, and he says he's still too new to have any agenda. He says he's bound by state law to have concern for all wildlife, not just game animals. He also denied having any leadership role in the radical group known as 'Hunter's Alert.'

TITLE: NEW 4 AT 6:30PM 30:00

TYPE: THE DUNBAR REPORT

DATE OF BROADCAST: AUG 20, 2008

DESCRIPTION: **Dunbar Report looks into the inspiration behind the Whittmore-Peterson Institute**

The Whittmore-Peterson Institute at the University of Nevada Medical Center is determined to be the world center for research into diseases that most people cannot even find doctors to treat. It's a project inspired by, Annette Whittmore, a mother who has battled her daughter's struggle against chronic fatigue syndrome. Daniel Peterson is a doctor who has specialized in the treatment of what he calls neuro-immune diseases including fibromyalgia, Epstein-Barr syndrome and Autism. "We've been dealing with chronic fatigue syndrome in our family for 18 years and we keep hearing the same stories over and over again

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that people are having difficulty finding physicians," Whittmore said. As for Peterson, it's a scientific interest and concern for patients. "Way back in the early 1980's there was an epidemic of chronic fatigue syndrome in this area and as the illness became chronic and debilitating in nature I felt compelled to get involved in the research into what's causing it and possible treatment procedures," Peterson said. The development of the research institute comes at a time when the university is facing a 14 per cent budget reduction so where will the money come from? The institute is holding a benefit on Sept. 19 at the Peppermill featuring a dinner, live auction and big band dancing. For more information on the Whittmore-Peterson Institute visit www.wpinstitute.org.

TITLE: NEW 4 AT 6:30PM 30:00

TYPE: THE DUNBAR REPORT

DATE OF BROADCAST: AUG 21, 2008

DESCRIPTION: **Could the Lovelock park tragedy have been prevented?**

Residents of Lovelock are still reeling following a tragic incident that marred a popular celebration at a county park recently but could it have been prevented? Seven people were injured when a huge tree limb fell on them and there are some questions over whether the county should have taken steps to prevent the tragedy. County officials say the 48-foot branch just broke out of the blue and that there was nothing they could have done to prevent this but some information has come to the surface that does raise some questions about how pro-active the county was in dealing with this. The county received an estimate for hazard reduction pruning, trimming and shaping the trees dated July 22, about a week before the big limb fell. Did the county ignore the fact that it had a potential hazard on its hands? The county says that even though it says hazard reduction in black and white on that estimate that did not mean there was any hazard to the people in the park. There seems to have been warning signs as well because the weekend before the tragic event two tree limbs fell and residents are saying everyone could hear the trees limbs "cracking."

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TITLE: NEW 4 AT 6:30PM 30:00

TYPE: THE DUNBAR REPORT

DATE OF BROADCAST: AUG 22, 2008

DESCRIPTION: **Dunbar looks into the changes Sparks Police Chief has dealt with**

After 40 years as a cop and more than 15 years as Sparks Police Chief John Dotson has had to face increases in gang violence along with significant increases in population. Very soon Dotson will put on his uniform and report for duty for the last time. The average tenure as a police chief is about five years. "The big changes I think in this modern policing, is these newer generations of men and women who get into policing," Dotson said. "They have more education to start with, coming in and we require some college to come in here." The Sparks population is up almost 40 percent since Dotson took over the department a growth rate that has been perhaps the biggest challenge he has faced. The development has been significant," Dotson said. "The growth in population has been significant. It's been a struggle to grow in terms of staffing to keep up with that so we can provide the same level of service delivery." It isn't just the number of people that has changed it's the nature of the town itself.

Sparks is less the white, middle class "bedroom community" it was a decade and a half ago. It's more a free-standing city now with more big-city problems.

"Fifteen years ago, Reno may have had a gang problem, but Sparks almost did not," Dotson said. "Now they do." When asked whether gang problem is getting better or worse, Dotson says it's growing. "Well, I think it's growing, as the population grows, and I think the demographics of the city will bear it out," Dotson said. "It's just a fact. We're no different from any other big city." Deputy Chief Steve Keefer has already been named acting chief but he says he does not want the job permanently. Both Patrol Division Commander Steve Asher and Detective Division Commander Gary Potter have expressed interest in the job. The City Council will make the decision, of course, but Chief Dotson says he hopes they will name a new chief from inside the department.

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TITLE: NEW 4 AT 6:30PM 30:00

TYPE: THE DUNBAR REPORT

DATE OF BROADCAST: AUG 25, 2008

DESCRIPTION: **Former gambling addict looks to hold government accountable for gaming crimes**

Recent high profile embezzlement cases in Washoe County have focused attention on a social problem that once was unique to Nevada and its gambling industry but with 17 percent of Nevadans reported to have gambling problems, the toll on society is enormous and difficult to turnaround. Gambling woes on societies has become a national issue with the growing popularity and accessibility of gambling. As many as 48 states now have some form of gaming. One local man with a personal history of gambling addiction is trying to bring the crisis to the attention of lawmakers and the public. Rex Williams and his wife for the past 20 years have been trying to expose the danger of addictive gambling to the 50,000 problem gamblers in Nevada alone. "Compulsive gambling was a hidden illness that was kept out of the light and wasn't talked about very much in the gaming industry," Williams said. "But it was widely known." Williams says Nevada has people gambling away their paychecks; they can't put food on their table or clothes on their backs. It can leave a person to do desperate things in order to feed their addictions. "Nine out of 10 embezzlement cases I can almost guarantee are compulsive gamblers," Williams said. "Compulsive gambling has the highest suicide rate of all addictions combined, worse than alcohol and drugs." Is there any way to control the problem and who should be held accountable? A lobbyist for legislative intervention with problem gamblers, Williams says it costs \$40,000 a year to jail someone when instead we can use a third of that money to rehabilitate a problem gambler and send them back to work. "Until the legislature gives the judiciary the power there's nothing judges can do to deal with compulsive gambling and crimes associated with it," Williams said.

TITLE: NEW 4 AT 6:30PM 30:00

TYPE: THE DUNBAR REPORT

DATE OF BROADCAST: AUG 26, 2008

DESCRIPTION: **Tens months since evidence missing in Fallon vault-still no answers**

In-depth Dunbar Report looks into why ten months after evidence mysteriously vanished from under the watch of the Department of Public Safety; Attorney

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General has yet to report any findings. Many questions remain about the case that involves missing drugs and as many as 90 guns disappearing from a storage vault in Fallon. Ron Cuzze, president of Nevada Law Enforcement Officers' Association says the attorney general's office has had ample time to do an investigation. "I know who else is involved and there's not that many people so why it's taking so long is beyond me," Dunlap said. News 4 did have an interview scheduled with current Attorney General, Catherine Cortez Masto to discuss this case. She cancelled that interview saying she couldn't talk about it.

TITLE: NEW 4 AT 6:30PM 30:00

TYPE: THE DUNBAR REPORT

DATE OF BROADCAST: AUG 27, 2008

DESCRIPTION: **State Supreme Court in the process of creating "judicial academy"**

The State Supreme Court is in the process of establishing its own "judicial academy" which would concentrate on training the state's judges in the specifics of Nevada law sentencing and jury instructions. This comes after a study by the Grant Sawyer Center for Justice Studies at the University of Nevada, Reno. It reports that judges failed to follow sentencing guidelines in more than 12 percent of the cases they reviewed. The man in charge of the study, Dr. Jim Richardson of the university's Department of Sociology and Judicial Studies says the reported quoted refers to research that is far from complete. He says the surprising numbers had to have some explanation. "We started looking more closely at our data set," Richardson said. "We realized there were some things that weren't in the data set that could be crucial. So now we are going back to the drawing board." After speaking with Mark Gibbons, Chief Justice of the State Supreme Court, News 4 found out he too found the preliminary report hard to believe. "I think what's happened is that with many of those sentences there were enhancements like deadly weapons being used or habitual criminals or crimes against the elderly," Gibbons said. With as many as 1,300 possible sentences that didn't follow the law according to this study, that's pretty alarming. "If there is one sentence that didn't follow the law, that's shocking and it can't stand," Gibbons said. Richardson's concern is the lack of easily accessible data, a problem that makes it difficult to get a handle on which problems are real and which are not. In a state where judges are elected to their jobs, it's inevitable that some are more qualified than others. One district judge in Washoe County did say that most of the problems with judges are in the Las Vegas courts. Chief Justice Gibbons seemed to agree. "We have some excellent district court judges here in Washoe County who do an outstanding job and they probably have more experience than judges in Clark County," Gibbons said.

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TYPE: THE DUNBAR REPORT

DATE OF BROADCAST: SEPT 1, 2008

DESCRIPTION: **The margin between Republicans and Democrats in Nevada is decreasing**

This November could find the silver state at ground zero in the race to elect our next president and officials say Washoe County could be the bulls eye.

"I think it is a very real possibility," Marlene Lockhard said, Democrat strategist.

"I think Nevada is in a wonderful position in this whole election cycle, first the turn out for the caucuses gave us a lot of attention and the turnout for the caucuses was phenomenal and I think it's good for the process."

Clark County has maintained its wide democratic margin, about 110,000 lead but Washoe County has seen its republican registration lead slip to slightly more than 5,000. Statewide the red versus blue tally is 489,000 republicans and 565,000 democrats.

The get-out-the-vote effort is crucial since one of the reasons for the surge in democratic registrations has been Barack Obama's appeal to young voters and the increase in Latino population in Nevada. Both groups have had a poor record in actually getting to the polls.

With all the attention on Nevada by the national parties and the candidates themselves, what does it really mean for the state?

TITLE: NEW 4 AT 6:30PM 30:00

TYPE: THE DUNBAR REPORT

DATE OF BROADCAST: SEPT 2, 2008

DESCRIPTION: **To vaccinate or not to vaccinate, that is the question**

Those against modern vaccine 'anti-vaccinationists' are becoming more prominent on the internet sparking more debate on safety issues and with the local immunization rate at only 67 percent, public health officials are concerned.

The issue of to vaccinate or not to vaccinate is not restricted to the patients' concern but the populous itself. The public health risk of a population not fully immunized, diseases which were almost wiped out can reappear.

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"We've had a lot more questions about it," Krista Colletti, MD, said, family physician. "I think parents just want to be well informed."

When parents come into Colletti's office they are given a fact sheet outlining the research into the safety of childhood vaccines. She says that once concerned parents are informed they seem reassured.

"The important thing for parents to realize is that all the things we vaccinate for are still out there," Colletti said. "Just a few weeks ago we had a baby with Pertussis and we had to put it in the hospital because she just couldn't eat because she was coughing all the time."

Colletti says he warns parents that a lot of diseases are just a plane ride away. She says even diseases as far away as Africa can still affect our young in the U.S.

"Polio has pretty much been wiped out of this country but it's having a huge resurgence in Africa," Colletti said. "So if you have a family that travels it can affect all sorts of people."

TITLE: NEW 4 AT 6:30PM 30:00

TYPE: THE DUNBAR REPORT

DATE OF BROADCAST: SEPT 3, 2008

DESCRIPTION: **Reno family's dreams sinking into ground along with its home, builder has not made repairs**

A Reno family has moved out of its dream home, because the home is literally falling apart. Family members say for a year, the builder has refused to make the necessary repairs.

Sirous Alavi and his family moved into a new Toll Brothers home in the Sommersett community in Northwest Reno just three years ago. Alavi says the family saved for years to afford this million dollar home, but problems with their new house started right away.

The builder responded to more than a hundred service calls in just the first year. Alavi says his courtyard flooded, he had a leaky ceiling in the master bedroom, the floors settled unevenly, some of the doors will no longer open, and there are major cracks throughout the house.

"The problems that we see speak for themselves," Alavi said. "It's hard to disagree with what is going on with the house."

The problem with the house might have more to do with what's under the house. Toll Brothers commissioned an inspection report by Black Eagle Consulting. The report says, "We conclude that the primary cause of distress is differential settlement of inadequately compacted fill."

In other words, the report indicates the home was not built on solid ground. Alavi says the report told him the home is no longer safe.

The Dunbar Report

"The reaction from me was, as a father I have responsibility of two minor children and I have to get them out of this house to safety," he said.

Last November, Alavi moved his wife and children into an apartment. Ever since, he's been trying to get Toll Brothers to shore up the home and make it livable.

The court issued two deadlines to give Toll Brothers time to fix the home, which is still under warranty. Both deadlines have passed, and the house continues to sink into the ground.

Alavi says Toll Brothers has not been responsive to his requests for repairs.

"All I can say is we reported these (problems) to them in good faith as soon as we found out, and it's been over a year and we've not been able to move back into the house," he said.

News 4 contacted the president of Toll Brothers in Reno. He wouldn't comment on the case, but referred News 4 to the company's marketing director in Arizona.

Linda Rossi issued a statement on behalf of Toll Brothers: saying, "We have been extremely proactive in trying to resolve the Aavi's issues."

Rossi claims the Aavi's haven't given the company access to the house to make repairs. Aavi says that's simply not true.

News 4's Joe Hart offered to get Mr. Alavi on the phone to grant Toll Brothers access to the house. The Toll Brothers representative declined.

Generally, Toll Brothers has a very good record for customer service. However, the facts of this case remain. The builder has not fixed a home under warranty with serious problems.

In the mean time, the frustrations continue for the Alavi family. They are paying the mortgage on a home they can't live in and trying unsuccessfully to get the Toll Brothers to fix their home.

"I'm really struggling to find a way to get the message out and get this big corporation to do the right thing," Alavi said.

TITLE: NEW 4 AT 6:30PM 30:00

TYPE: THE DUNBAR REPORT

DATE OF BROADCAST: AUG 5, 2008

DESCRIPTION: **Gibbons cleared of wrongdoing regarding tax break-for now**

A Nevada ethics commission investigator says there's no evidence to support a claim by a state Democratic Party official that Republican Governor Jim Gibbons pressured a local assessor to get an unwarranted property tax break.

The Dunbar Report

When an ethics complaint was filed against Gibbons, he insisted that all elements of the probe should be made public. Under that request News 4 was able to get a copy of the investigator's report exonerating Gibbons.

"It's over, no it's not over," Patty Caffarata said, executive director, Ethics Commission. "He completed his investigation and wrote his report and we put it out. The commission panel will review all the evidence and his report-depending on what they decide it will either go to a hearing or it will be dismissed." Caffarata says the Ethics Commission can't decide whether Gibbons deserved a tax only whether or not he abused his office.

Gibbons got a \$39.71 tax bill on 40 acres of land near Lamoille in Elko County that he bought for \$575,000 a year ago.

The investigator, Michael Vavra, says the property met all the requirements under state law for the low agricultural use assessment. He also said there's no evidence that Gibbons or John Marvel, a lawyer and Nevada Tax Commission member hired by the governor to pursue the tax break, pressured the Elko County Assessor.

That's what the governor insisted when we talked with him shortly after the complaint was filed.

"I use the land the same way it was used for the preceding decades," Gibbons said. "If it was good enough before I bought it to be under an agricultural exemption-why is it not good enough to be under an agricultural exemption under the same usage and the same conditions but only because i bought it?"

Joe Aguirre who just retired as the county assessor says the tax bill without the agricultural assessment would be about \$5,000 but Vavra noted that Aguirre's office also had stated the annual bill would have been just under \$1,900 and the state taxation department had an even lower figure of \$711.

What happens next is that two members of the Ethics Commission, one Republican and one Democrat, will meet next Thursday to review the investigator's report.

If they decide to forward the case to the full commission, that will be the next step and if they don't, end game.

TITLE: NEW 4 AT 6:30PM 30:00

TYPE: THE DUNBAR REPORT

DATE OF BROADCAST: AUG 8, 2008

DESCRIPTION: **Air Races to face tougher scrutiny following fatalities**

The Federal Aviation Administration says it will be placing greater scrutiny on the air races this year because of a string of deadly crashes last year and the latest one from Saturday.

The Dunbar Report

The latest crash killed formula one racer Erica Simpson of Phillipsburg, New Jersey. She was preparing for her second year as a competitor in the event when her aircraft crashed at Reno-Stead Airport.

An FAA spokesman says the wings of Simpson's homebuilt, single-engine aircraft broke off as she was performing a roll.

Even the sponsors of the air races acknowledge that the sport is inherently risky; organizers say safety is the highest priority for the event.

Nonetheless, since 1964 there have been 19 fatalities, including three in one deadly week last year.

However, compared to auto racing, there have been 27 race related deaths at Daytona speedway since 1959 and 67 fatalities in the history of the Indianapolis 500.

TITLE: NEW 4 AT 6:30PM 30:00

TYPE: THE DUNBAR REPORT

DATE OF BROADCAST: SEPT 10, 2008

DESCRIPTION: **Why do pilots take the risk of racing?**

Pilots at the Reno Air Races plan a tribute Friday for pilot Erika Simpson, whose plane broke apart during a qualifying flight last weekend, during the opening ceremonies.

The pilots may seem lighthearted when talking about the risks they take but they are obviously moved when one of their own is involved in a fatal crash. But why do pilots take the risk?

When you talk to them, they don't seem serious about the dangers they face, The bottom line, to them it's just fun.

"I thought, well maybe it'd be fun to go to pylon racing school and i did, with no intention of racing after that, but just for the experience," Tony Crawford said, Sport Class, pilot. "After going to the school, I said hey, why not? This is great. It's really a rush. It's a lot of fun."

TITLE: NEW 4 AT 6:30PM 30:00

TYPE: THE DUNBAR REPORT

DATE OF BROADCAST: SEPT 11, 2008

The Dunbar Report

DESCRIPTION: Candidates for Washoe District Judge continue the fight

Two candidates for Washoe District Judge are involved in one of the most heated campaigns of the coming election and they locked horns Wednesday before the County Bar Association.

Political campaigns for district judge are usually pretty low-profile, courteously-conducted contests.

In fact, it's often the case that incumbent judges find themselves running unopposed but the race for judge in Washoe County's Department Nine is something else.

One candidate, Elliott Sattler, has laid down a barrage of accusations in which he says his opponent, Robert Perry, has been too soft on the criminals who appear before him.

Judge Perry continues to refute Sattler, case by case.

The two men continue fighting it out in the wide world of internet on their respective Web sites.

TITLE: NEW 4 AT 6:30PM 30:00

TYPE: THE DUNBAR REPORT

DATE OF BROADCAST: SEPT 11, 2008

DESCRIPTION: Nevada's budget crisis hits the legal system

The state's budget crisis is causing real problems for another sector of government, specifically in the legal arena.

Public defenders offices across Nevada are caught in a legal catch 22.

The U.S. and state supreme courts are mandating new standards of conduct for those who represent indigent criminal defendants.

Soon there will be stricter standards for public defenders offices. The problem is almost all those offices are critically understaffed and overworked, including the office in Washoe County.

The question is -- when both the state and the counties are in a budget crisis, who is going to pay for the increased staff?

The Commission on Indigent Defense will meet Oct., 15 and at that time the Nevada Supreme Court may shed some light on how to pay for the increased staffing required under the mandate of the nation's highest court.

The Dunbar Report

TITLE: NEW 4 AT 6:30PM 30:00

TYPE: THE DUNBAR REPORT

DATE OF BROADCAST: SEPT 15, 2008

DESCRIPTION: **It is never too early to think of retirement**

People exiting the workforce and entering the world of retirement, for some it could be a world away as the shake up on Wall Street shakes up their retirement savings.

Holding off on retirement is not something many want to do; it's something many are forced to do.

"I think that everybody, their work life is expanding because of the fear of not having enough money to retire," Adrienne Lindsey said, who hopes to retire in 25 years.

Unless you prepare five to seven years ahead of retirement, financial advisor Steven Jackson says that's when you need to start monitoring your funds and increasing the amount of money you put in your retirement accounts.

Jackson says that if you can't increase the amount of funds into your retirement account at least five years prior to retirement than you need to think of your style of living at retirement.

"I mean it's pretty simple a couple things are going to have to change," Jackson said.

When nearing retirement, advisors recommend transitioning your exposure from stocks to bonds. Even though bonds have a lower point of return than stocks, they are less risky.

Bottom line, it's never too early to think of your future.

TITLE: NEW 4 AT 6:30PM 30:00

TYPE: THE DUNBAR REPORT

DATE OF BROADCAST: SEPT 19, 2008

DESCRIPTION: **Nevada jobless rate spikes to 23-year high**

Nevada's unemployment rate zoomed to 7.1 percent in August and state officials didn't mask prospects that the spiking rate will run even higher in coming months. The state announced Friday the estimated and seasonally-adjusted rate, up from 4.9 percent a year ago - and 6.6 percent in July - was the highest since it hit 7.4 percent 23 years ago.

The Dunbar Report

State officials pointed to the fact that about 100,000 workers went without jobs in August, as evidence of a severe downturn and a reason to avoid tax hikes.

"The credit crisis has gripped Nevada and sent us into, arguably, the most severe downturn in memory," said Bill Anderson, chief economist at the Nevada Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation.

"Nevada's rising unemployment underscores the economic turbulence seen throughout the nation and the effect it's having here in Nevada," said Gov. Jim Gibbons. "Raising taxes now would just lead to more layoffs and hamper Nevada's economic recovery."

He said some in Nevada want to raise taxes, but indicated that would increase burdens on businesses already struggling to meet payrolls, and financially strapped families.

Anderson, meanwhile, blamed three factors for the downturn: the credit crisis, the housing collapse and high energy costs. And, he said population growth likely will lead to higher jobless rates before unemployment crests and begins to fall.

"(P)opulation growth in Nevada, particularly Clark County, is still strong," he said. "This leads to a constant increase of the labor pool without a corresponding increase in jobs, so the unemployment rate will rise."

The August rate in Clark County - Las Vegas and Paradise "MSA" (metropolitan statistical area)- was the same as the state's 7.1 percent. That was up from 5 percent a year ago and .2 percent in July.

In the Reno-Sparks metropolitan statistical area, the August level was 6.6 percent, up more than two percentage points from the same month in 2007, and July's 6.5 percent.

Carson City's metropolitan statistical area came in at 6.8 percent, up from 4.9 a year earlier and 6.6 in July. The Elko area, where mining is strong, came in at 4 percent for August. That was an increase from 3.3 percent in August, 2007 and 3.9 percent in July.

The national rate was 6.1 percent; California's July rate was 7.3 percent.

Anderson's dour analysis of the near-term unemployment picture contrasted a bit with an accompanying report looking ahead to 2010 and 2011, when more jobs are anticipated.

Employment projections through 2011 call for 44,000 new jobs, compared with 2007, offsetting losses in 2008 when "growth" is expected to run a negative 1.1 percent. In 2009, the projection is for a jobs boost of 0.3 percent, followed by 1.8 percent and 2.4 percent, respectively, in 2010 and 2011.

"These growth rates are hardly what we've come to expect in Nevada," wrote Anderson and Peter Janson, another economist at the Nevada DETR's Bureau of Research and Analysis.

"However, the rates reflect Nevada's resiliency and ability to rebound quite nicely when less dynamic economies suffer longer term debilitating effects," they said.

The Dunbar Report

TITLE: NEW 4 AT 6:30PM 30:00

TYPE: THE DUNBAR REPORT

DATE OF BROADCAST: SEPT 22, 2008

DESCRIPTION: **Sister says Nevada rapist wrongly convicted, evidence mishandled**

A crime more than 20 years old is once again taking center stage as the sister of a convicted rapist works to set him free.

Nolan Klein of Carson City has two decades behind bars for a knife point rape of a Sparks store clerk.

"My brother Nolan Klein was wrongly convicted 20 years ago of a crime he didn't commit," Tonya Brown said.

Brown testified before the Nevada Advisory Commission on the Administration of Justice Monday, accusing the Washoe County legal system of tampering with and destroying DNA evidence, staging line-up photos and even breaking and entering by public officials. Brown believes that several instances in her brother's trial proved that DNA evidence used to convict or exonerate a criminal defendant can be too easily mishandled or tampered with.

"When I went to look at the evidence, I discovered that the DNA kits were opened and the DNA kits would be that of Nolan Klein's," Brown said. "I discovered now that the filters on the cigarette butts had been removed. They weren't removed in 1989 and they were photocopied with the filters attached. Now in 1996 the kits are opened and the filters are gone."

Much of the mishandling of DNA evidence alleged by Brown would have been the responsibility of Washoe District Attorney Dick Gammick. Gammick strongly denied any wrongdoing or irregularities in the case.

"Evidence tracking sheets that are attached to the evidence and those are a chronological listing of every time that evidence goes anywhere and that is what is brought into court and proven before a judge that we do in fact have a chain of custody and this is exactly who had this evidence at this time and this is when it was returned and it's right on there," Gammick said. "The sky falls pretty heavy on those who do not take care of that the way it should be done."

Gammick says although he disagrees with Brown, he can sympathize with her. "God bless Tonya Brown. She will not accept that her brother Nolan Klein was involved in a very nasty case. He was convicted for holding two girls hostage who were just selling shoes. He held them hostage in the back room, raped them each several times, burned them with cigarettes."

Brown says her brother's health is failing and her requests to have the case reviewed are urgent.

The Dunbar Report

TITLE: NEW 4 AT 6:30PM 30:00

TYPE: THE DUNBAR REPORT

DATE OF BROADCAST: SEPT 23, 2008

DESCRIPTION: **The campaign for Washoe County district judgeship gets nastier**

A hotly contested race for a Washoe County district judgeship has turned downright ugly due to reports of past drug use and accusations of one opponent being soft on crime.

The campaign between Robert Perry and Elliott Sattler got nasty when District Attorney Dick Gammick mass e-mailed a letter to the bar association members and others accusing Perry of listing him as an endorser of his candidacy. He also claims that Perry had a record of being soft on sex offenders.

But what's attracting the most attention is Gammick's reference to an incident 25 years ago, involving Perry and drug use.

Judge Perry's explanation of his alleged connection with drugs is that metabolites in his system were found to be from pain killers prescribed by his doctor, confirmed by prominent local attorney David Houston.

Houston told news 4 that he was familiar with the case because he defended someone else who was charged in the same incident.

TITLE: NEW 4 AT 6:30PM 30:00

TYPE: THE DUNBAR REPORT

DATE OF BROADCAST: SEPT 25, 2008

DESCRIPTION: **Democratic congressional candidate Derby urges caution on bailout plan**

During the recent media frenzy over the president's urging on a \$700 billion bailout plan for struggling financial institutions, Democratic congressional candidate, Jill Derby, urged caution when approving a bailout.

"This is a real crisis, the biggest bailout in history and people everywhere are very frustrated that suddenly the taxpayer is going to be hit up for an enormous amount that will have us in debt for years to bail out banks that took on risky behavior," Derby said. "I'm worried about the folks on Main Street looking at foreclosures, struggling with the cost of living, high unemployment and all that."

The Dunbar Report

News 4 is still waiting for a statement from Congressman Dean Heller on his views of the bailout negotiations.

A spokesman says Heller has drafted a statement on his position on the bailout. News 4 will report on what the Congressman says when it is received.
